

Montana State Library



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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY
930 East Lyndale Avenue
Helena, Montana 59601

MAP OF
**HISTORICAL
MUSEUMS**
IN
MONTANA

Produced by the
Montana Multi-Cultural History Project

February 1980

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by a planning grant from the National Endowment for
the Humanities to the Montana Historical Society.

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ON

LISTING OF MONTANA'S HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

ANACONDA:

Copper Village Museum & Arts Center 8th & Main
Hours: Tues-Sun 9am-5pm Sat-Sun 1pm Closed
holidays No adm
Emphasis History of area Indians to early merchants

BAKER:

O'Fallon Historical Museum SE corner of Courthouse Complex 1st St. W & 10th
Hours (Tentative) Starting in June Wed Sat & Sun 2-4pm
Emphasis Fallon County history

BIGFORK:

Bigfork in Miniature Village Square Arts Center
Hours May 15 to end of June Mon Sat 10am-4pm
end of June to Labor Day Mon Sat 10am-8pm No adm
Emphasis Old homes and logging town

BIG SANDY

Virgelle Mercantile 15 miles... of Big Sandy
Hours June to Aug Daily Other times by appt No adm
Emphasis Old general store antiques

BILLINGS:

Western Heritage Center 2822 Montana Avenue
Hours Tues-Sat 10am-5pm Sun 1pm-5pm No adm
Emphasis Western history Indians

YELLOWSTONE ART CENTER

401 No. 27th St
Hours Tues-Fri 11am-5pm Wed-Thurs 7-9pm Sat-Sun noon-5pm No adm
Emphasis Paintings prints Montana potters 25 Hufftman photos

YELLOWSTONE COUNTY MUSEUM

Logan International Airport
Hours Tues-Sat 10:30am-noon 1-5pm Sun 2-5pm No adm
Emphasis Old West Indian artifacts

BOZEMAN

Gallatin Pioneers Museum Courthouse second floor
Hours Mon-Fri 8am-5pm No adm
Emphasis Artifacts from pioneer settlement of Gallatin Indians

MUSEUM OF THE ROCKIES

Montana State University
5th & Eaga Blvd
Hours Mon-Fri 9am-4pm Sat-Sun 1-4pm No adm
Emphasis Physical and social heritage of the Northern Rockies

BROWNING:

Museum of Montana Wildlife Hwy 2 & 80
Hours Summer Daily 8am-8pm Other times by appt
Emphasis Wildlife and environment of area Blackfeet sculptures

MUSEUM OF THE PLAINS INDIAN

Hwy 2 & 80 of Browning
Hours June 1 to Sept 30 Daily 9am-5pm Oct 1 to May 31 Mon-Fri 10am-4 30pm Closed holidays No adm
Emphasis Art and artifacts of eleven Plains Indian tribes

BUTTE:

Mineral Museum Montana Tech, West Park Street
Hours Winter Mon-Fri 8am-5pm mid-June to Sept Daily 8am-5pm No adm
Emphasis 14,000 mineral specimens

WORLD MUSEUM OF MINING

Hell Roarin Gulch West Park Street
Hours Mid-June to Labor Day Daily 9am-9pm Rest of year Tues-Sun 10am-5pm Closed Nov to March No adm
Emphasis Complete 1905 mining camp and mining equipment

CHESTER:

Liberty County Museum 210 Second St E
Hours Last Sat in May to Sept 15 Daily 2-5pm 7-9pm Other times by appt No adm
Emphasis Farming, homesteading

CHINOOK:

Blaine County Museum 501 Indiana
Hours Tues-Sat 9am-5pm Sun 2-5pm Mon 10am-5pm No adm
Emphasis County history

CHOTEAU:

Teton Trail Village Museum Hwy 287 & 80
Hours May 25 to Sept 15 Daily 10am-5pm
Emphasis Blackfeet and pioneer artifacts

CIRCLE:

McCone County Museum Main Street 2 blocks west of Hwy 200
Hours June to Aug Tues-Sat 2-5pm Other times by appt No adm
Emphasis History of area

COLUMBUS:

Stillwater County Historical Gallery Civic Center
Hours Mon-Fri 8am-noon 1-5pm
Emphasis 2,000 historical photos of area

CUSTER BATTLEFIELD

Custer Battlefield Off Hwy 90
Hours All year Daily 8am-4pm Expanded summer hours No adm
Emphasis Battle of the Little Bighorn Plains Indian Wars arts & war artifacts mostly Custer papers

DARBY:

Darby Pioneer Memorial Museum Hwy 93 Council Park
Hours Memorial Day to Labor Day Tues-Sat 1-5pm Other times by appt No adm
Emphasis Darby settlement 1800-1888

DEER LODGE:

Grant-Kohrs Ranch West Main Street
Hours Summer Daily 8am-6 30pm Winter Daily 9am-4 30pm No adm
Emphasis House and work buildings of early Montana ranch

POWELL COUNTY MUSEUM & ARTS FOUNDATION

308 Cottonwood Ave
Hours Wed-Sun noon-6pm No adm
Emphasis History of area including State Prison and first college in Montana

DILLON:

Beaverhead County Museum 15 So. Montana
Hours June to Aug Mon-Fri 9am-7 30pm Sept to May Mon-Fri 9am-5pm No adm
Emphasis Beaverhead County history

EKALAKA:

Carter County Museum Basement at High School
Hours Tues-Sun 1-5pm No adm
Emphasis Paleontological specimens and artifacts of human settlement

FORSYTH:

Rosebud County Pioneer Museum Forsyth
Hours May 15 to Sept 15 Mon-Sat 9am-5pm Sun 1-7pm
Emphasis Pioneer settlement

FORT BENTON:

Benton Fort Museum Front & 11th streets
Hours June 1 to Labor Day Daily 9am-9pm Mid-May to June 1 and day after Labor Day to mid Sept Daily 1-5pm
Emphasis Missouri River history 500 photos, dioramas of Fort Benton

FOOTSTOOL:

Frontier Town Museum Hwy 12 west of Helena
Hours April 1 to Oct 30 Daily 9-11am Winter hours vary
Emphasis Indian artifacts

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts
Hours Winter Mon-Fri 8am-5pm Sat 9am-5pm Summer Daily 8am-8pm
Emphasis History of Montana prehistoric to present C.M. Russell art

FORT PECK:

Fort Peck Museum Power Plant #1
Hours Memorial Day to Labor Day Daily 8 30am-5 30pm Other times by appt
Emphasis Fossils

FORT SMITH:

Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area Off Hwy 13
Hours Memorial Day to Labor Day Daily 8am-5pm Other times by appt No adm
Emphasis Crow Indian history Yellowstone Dam

GLASGOW:

Pioneer Museum Hwy 2 west
Hours Memorial Day to Labor Day 10am-5pm Other times by appt No adm
Emphasis History of area good Indian collection

GLENDIVE:

Frontier Gateway Museum Belle Prairie Rd off I-94 1 mile east of Glendive
Hours June to Aug Daily 9am-noon 1-5pm May & Sept Daily 1-5pm No adm
Emphasis Area history especially 1880-1920

LIBBY:

Libby Branch Montana Historical Society Star Route 2
Hours May to mid Sept Daily 9 30am-5pm Other open Oct to April Mon-Fri 8am-4 30pm

Emphasis History of area logging mining home

steading

GREAT FALLS:

Cascade County Historical Museum 1400 First Ave N
Hours Paris Gibson Square

Hours Tues-Fri 10am-5pm Sat-Sun 1-4pm

Emphasis Cascade County history

PARIS GIBSON SQUARE

1400 First Ave N
Hours Tues-Fri 10am-5pm Sat-Sun 1-4pm No adm
Emphasis Area cultural center Montana art genealogy society

CHARLES M. RUSSELL MUSEUM

1201 Fourth Ave N
Hours Mon-Sat 10am-5pm Sun 1-5pm Adm
Emphasis Western art

HAMILTON:

Bitterroot Heritage Center Old Courthouse
Hours Mon-Fri 1-4pm No adm
Emphasis Bitterroot Valley history archives

ROCKETS MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Old Courthouse Hours Mon-Fri 1-4pm
Emphasis History of Spotted Fever Research

HARVEY:

H. Earl Clark Memorial Museum Fairgrounds on Hwy 2 west of Harvey
Hours Memorial Day to Labor Day Daily 9am-8pm Other times by appt No adm
Emphasis Archaeology and interpretation of buffalo jump site area history

NORTHERN MONTANA COLLEGE COLLECTIONS

Northern Montana College Math-Science Building
Hours During school sessions Mon-Fri 8am-5pm No adm
Emphasis Natural history Indian artifacts

RANGE RIDERS MUSEUM

Hwy 10 & 12 west of Miles City
Hours June 1 to Sept 1 Daily 8am-8pm April 1 to June 1 & Sept 1 to Nov 1 Daily 9am-5pm Closed Nov to April Adults \$1 Children 12-18 50¢
Emphasis Early range life ranching

MISSOULA:

Fort Missoula Historical Museum Fort Missoula Building 222 West on South Avenue
Hours Tues-Sun noon-5pm No adm
Emphasis Timber industry military commerce agriculture

PLENTYWOOD:

Sheridan County Historical Museum Plentywood
Hours May to Oct Tues-Sun 1-5pm Other times by appt No adm
Emphasis Homestead era

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS:

Castle Museum Hwy 89 & 12
Hours May 15 to Oct 15 Daily 9am-5pm Adults \$1 Children under 12 free
Emphasis Restored stockman's mansion

KALISPEL:

Conrad Mansion Woodland Ave between 3rd & 4th Streets East
Hours May 15 to Oct 15 Daily guided tours 10am-5 30pm Adults \$2 Children \$1
Emphasis Restored 1895 Norman style mansion

HOKADAY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

2nd Ave E & 3rd St
Hours Tues-Sat 10am-5pm No adm
Emphasis Montana art

LEWISTOWN:

Central Montana Museum 408 East Main
Hours Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Emphasis Area history

LIBBY:

Heritage Museum Hwy 2 east of Libby
Hours June to Sept Mon-Fri 10am-5pm Sun 1-5pm
No adm
Emphasis Area history especially 1880-1920

LIBBY BRANCH MUSEUM

Star Route 2
Hours May to mid Sept Daily 9 30am-5pm Other open Oct to April Mon-Fri 8am-4 30pm
Emphasis Homesteading early industry

LIVINGSTON:

Park County Museum 118 West Chinook
Hours June 1 to Labor Day Daily 2 5pm-7 45pm Other times by appt No adm
Emphasis Archaeology area history

LOMA:

Rock Science Museum 106 Main St
Hours June 1 to Sept 30 Daily 9am-5pm Other times by appt No adm
Emphasis Earth sciences Indian artifacts

MALTA:

Phillips County Historical Museum Old Carnegie Library Building
Hours Will open in September 1980
Emphasis Homesteading cattle era

MILES CITY:

Coffin Old West Gallery 1600 Main Street
Hours Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Sat 9am 4pm No adm
Emphasis 400 Huffman photos 1,100 negatives on file

RANGE RIDERS MUSEUM

Hwy 10 & 12 west of Miles City
Hours June 1 to Sept 1 Daily 8am-8pm April 1 to June 1 & Sept 1 to Nov 1 Daily 9am-5pm Closed Nov to April Adults \$1 Children 12-18 50¢
Emphasis Early range life ranching

VIRGINIA CITY:

White Rockers Restorations Virginia & Nevada Cities
Hours May 30 to Sept 10 8am-7pm Adults \$1 Students 75¢ Children with adults free
Emphasis Social history 1860-1900

WEST GLACIER:

Glacier National Park Museum West Glacier
Hours Mon-Fri 9am-4 30pm No adm
Emphasis History of Glacier Park

WINDHAM:

Sud Buster Museum Hwy 87 5 miles SE of Windham
Hours June to Aug 8am-5pm No adm
Emphasis Farming mining

WISDOM:

Big Hole National Battlefield Off Hwy 43 west of Wisdom
Hours Memorial Day to Labor Day Daily 8am-5pm Rest of year Daily 8am-5pm No adm
Emphasis 1877 Nez Perce War Battle of the Big Hole

WOLF POINT:

Wolf Point Area Historical Society Museum 220 Second Ave So
Hours May 15 to Sept 15 Mon-Fri 10am-5pm No adm
Emphasis Homesteading farming ranching

Museums in the state vary greatly in physical size, the size and depth of their collections, and in their presentation of artifacts. In some artifacts of many types are presented without thematic interpretation; in others, exhibitions are designed to interpret a particular topic or theme. Major strengths of collections, as identified by the museums are indicated in the listing under emphasis. Some of the collections and parks have special historical significance and are described in more detail below.

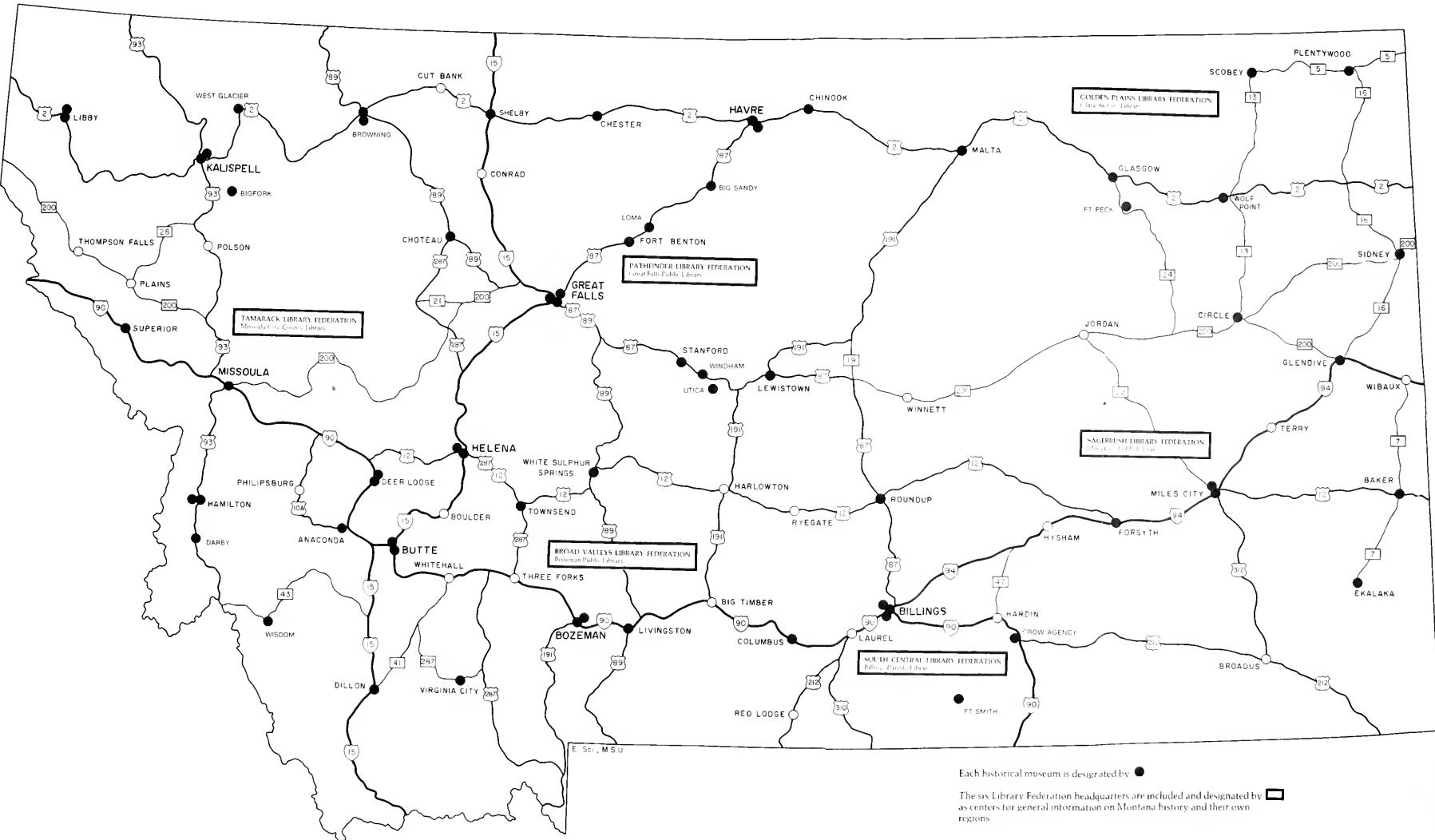
The following list includes the names of the museums and parks, their locations, and the date they opened. The first two digits of the date indicate the year the museum or park was established. The last two digits indicate the year it opened to the public.

Chelzley Coups Memorial State Monument (1 mile S of Chelzley Coups) - Located on Hwy 22 between Koso and Dillon.

Chief Plenty Coups Memorial State Monument (1 mile S of Plenty on the Crow Indian Reservation). Fort Owen State Monument (on US 93 S of Missoula at Stevensville). Petroglyph Cave State Monument (17 miles SE of Billings) with a walkway from U.S. 109 at Lockwood (turnoff) and Ulm (Pebkin) S. of Great Falls on U.S. 1-15 approximately 10 miles, then 4 miles W. on county road from Ulm (milepost 274). For a more detailed listing of monuments, parks and historic sites, please refer to the Montana Historic Preservation Plan, Volumes I-III compiled by the Montana Fish and Game Commission in July 1975.

MAP OF MONTANA'S HISTORICAL MUSEUMS

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February, 1980



Each historical museum is designated by ●

The six Library Federation headquarters are included and designated by □ as centers for general information on Montana history and their own regions

This map is one result of a survey of Montana's historical museums and their holdings conducted by questionnaire and personal visits by the Montana Multi-Cultural History Project in the Summer of 1979. It is intended to encourage Montanans to visit their local museums and those in other parts of the state so that we might all come to better understand the rich histories of our various regions and their people. And it is hoped that it will assist visitors in better understanding the experiences of the people who have lived on the vast land over which they are travelling. A more extensive listing of historical museum holdings also was published by the Montana History Project in February 1980. Entitled "A Guide to Montana's Historical Museums," it is designed to be useful to museums, libraries, and the public.

Some museums will be missing either because our survey did not bring them to our attention, because we were unable to get information about them, or because they have come to be since the information was gathered. Please send any additions or corrections you have (including museum name, location, curator, telephone number) to the address below.

The locations of the six Federations of Libraries in the state are included because of their ability to serve as information centers for their areas. Please feel free to ask them for information and materials about aspects of Montana's history in which you are interested.

Special thanks go to Dr. Robert Taylor of Montana State University for his expert and gracious assistance in developing this map, and to Melinda Quivik for preparing it. Thanks also to Brian Shovers and Dan Gallacher for their work in gathering the information from which this was prepared. Without the cooperation of people in museums across the state, this map and the companion Guide would not have been possible. We are very grateful to them.

Valerie Peacock, Director
Montana Multi-Cultural History Project

Send corrections or additions to this map to:

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